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from the inner wall and into the internal space; and

a second panel fabricated from metal material and having an engaging locking member having an engaging hole which is engageable with the front segment of the locking claw portion to connect the second panel to the frame such that, when the engaging locking member and the engaging hole are engaged, the engaging hole receives the front segment and the engaging locking member surrounds the front segment of the locking claw portion and facially contacts the inner wall of the frame.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-12, 14, 15, 17-24 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 31 are amended and claims 25, 26 and 28-30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants express their appreciation for the helpful comments and courtesies extended by Examiners Dinh and Thai during a personal interview with Applicants' representative on December 19, 2002. The amendments made herein incorporate the points raised during the personal interview. As a result of these amendments, Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt and courteous examination to this end is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 23, 2002

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Enclosure(s): Appendix I (Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims)

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APPENDIX I**(MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS)**

1. (Five Times Amended) A frame kit for an IC card, comprising:
a generally U-shaped frame fabricated from an injection molding material and having an inner wall defining an internal space;
a first panel fabricated from metal material and including a L-shaped locking member having a hanging portion and a locking claw portion with the hanging portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion fixedly and immovably embedded and held in the frame to connect the first panel to the frame, where a front segment of the locking claw portion projects out from the inner wall and into the internal space; and
a second panel fabricated from metal material and having an engaging locking member having an engaging hole which is engageable with the front segment of the locking claw portion to connect the second panel to the frame.

11. (Four Times Amended) An IC card comprising:
a frame fabricated from an injection molding material and having an inner wall defining an internal space of the IC card;
a first panel fabricated from metal material and having a L-shaped locking member having a hanging portion and a locking claw portion forming the L-shape with the hanging portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion being fixedly and immovably embedded and held in the frame to connect the first panel to the frame with a front segment of the locking claw portion projecting into the internal space from the inner wall of the frame;
a second panel fabricated from metal material and having an engaging locking member having an engaging hole which is engageable with the front segment of the locking claw portion inside the frame, said engaging locking member comprising a guiding portion that extends obliquely toward the internal space; and
a circuit board assembly constructed by mounting a connector on the

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circuit board, the circuit board assembly being contained between the first panel and the second panel.

31. (Amended) A frame kit for an IC card, comprising:

a generally U-shaped frame fabricated from an injection molding material and having an inner wall defining an internal space confined within the frame;

a first panel fabricated from metal material and including a L-shaped locking member having a hanging portion and a locking claw portion with the hanging portion and a rear segment of the locking claw portion connected to the hanging portion being integrally molded with the frame such that the first panel is connected to the frame as a result of the hanging portion and the rear segment being fixedly and immovably embedded into and thereby held in the frame, wherein a front segment of the locking claw portion connected to and extending from the rear segment projects out from the inner wall and into the internal space; and

a second panel fabricated from metal material and having an engaging locking member having an engaging hole which is engageable with the front segment of the locking claw portion to connect the second panel to the frame such that, when the engaging locking member and the engaging hole are engaged, the engaging hole receives the front segment and the engaging locking member surrounds the front segment of the locking claw portion and facially contacts the inner wall of the frame.